(a) the total area of the additional land which is lying unused with the Railways;

(b) the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether her Ministry is considering about giving the land on lease to the poor people living for years on its additional land; and

(d) whether any request has been received from the State Governments for returning the unused land that was acquired by Railways from the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid down on the Table of the Sabha.

Concessions for disabled persons in Shatabdi and Rajdhani

1040. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend concessions for travel given to disabled persons to cover Shatabdi and Rajdhani trains also;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Rajdhani and Shatabdi trains are premium trains to patronize full fare paying passengers.

Standard of food served in trains by contractors

†1041. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pantry car service in trains is totally run by private contractors under the label of Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC);

(b) if not, the details of such trains in which IRCTC provides meals directly;

(c) whether the standard of meals being served by contractors is fixed; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the system in place to check the quality of meals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) The pantry car services in the trains are operated by Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) either directly or through its licensees. Out of 269 Mail/Express trains running with pantry car facilities, the following trains are managed by IRCTC directly under departmental operation:—

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(1) 2301-02 New Delhi-Howrah Rajdhani

(2) 2305-06 New Delhi-Howrah Rajdhani

(3) 2951-52 New Delhi-Mumbai Central Rajdhani

(4) 2953-54 Nizamuddin-Mumbai Central Rajdhani

(5) 2309-10 New Delhi-Patna Rajdhani.

(6) 2123-24 Mumbai-Pune Deccan Queen.

(7) 2857-58 Howrah-Digha Tamralipta Express

(8) 8001-02 Howrah-Digha Kandari Express

(9) 2353-54 Patna Garib Rath Express

(10) 3108-09 Maitree Expreess

(11) 2641-42 Thirukkural Express

(12) 2483-84 Amritsar Express

(13) 2627-28 Karnataka Express

(14) 2957-58 Ahmedabad Rajdhani

(15) 2259-60 New Delhi-Sealdah Duranto Express

(16) 2269-70 Nizamuddin-Chennai Duranto Express

(17) 2261-62 Howrah-CSTM Duranto Express

(18) 2263-64 Pune- Nizamuddin Duranto Express

(19) 2625-26 Kerala Express

(20) 3413-14/3483-84 Farakka Express

(c) and (d) Standards for the meals being served in Rajdhani/Shatabdi and Mail/express trains have been laid down. Various measures such as inspection, monitoring, safety audit, passenger satisfaction surveys, etc. through officers, Quality Control Professionals (QCPs) and independent professionals agencies are undertaken to ensure quality and quantity of food items. Punitive actions are also being taken against defaulting licensees by imposing heavy fines in case of major deficiencies.

Vacancies in various Railway zones

1042. SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE-PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of number of vacancies, zone-wise in Railways and the number of recruitment actually done along with the vacancies yet to be filled in last three years;

(b) the details of actual vacancies which were filled in Railway zones falling in the State of Maharashtra;

(c) whether her Ministry is contemplating to allow recruitment to a zone for candidates who are domiciled within the zone only; and